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SUMMARY

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Argentina

THE ORGANIZATION, PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

By Dr. Manuel SAN MIGUEL,
Executive Secretary of the National
Development Council

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No. 936

THE ORGANIZATION, PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC

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SUMMARY

To achieve the progressive solution of all problems which hinder the efficient working of a system of production and bring about desirable improvements in living standards require the adoption of an economic and financial policy based on a frame of reference which includes, even though in approximate form, the effects of factors operating in economic and social processes.

A national programme formulated in line with programming techniques to serve as an objective guiding instrument provides the necessary frame of reference.

By means of programming techniques neutral and useful instruments can be devised for forecasting the possible course of future development. However, it must be remembered that this only means a rough guide by which the authorities may discern economic and financial policies, and a constant appraisal of the fundamental economic facts will always be necessary so that the policies adopted may be positive instruments for solving concrete problems.

A constant scrutiny of projected goals and actual achievement after the adoption of a programme will lead to the identification of those factors which in some cases can impede development and in others cause a greater acceleration of growth.

The National Development Council is carrying out preparatory work for drawing up the national programme. In structure it is not an over-staffed bureaucracy, although it tries to utilize all available information and co-ordinate the results of investigations and analysis carried out by various institutions connected with aspects of development. Ad hoc groups set up to consult with all concerned, especially in the private sector, ensure an adequate appraisal of problems.

In the public sector, the National Development Council is drawing up a general plan of capital works to be carried out by government next year. This attempt to draw up a plan of capital expenditure compatible with available resources and

within a framework of priorities is an important step toward a better allocation of real and financial resources.

Since the final decision to carry out public works rests basically with a handful of high government officials, who can co-ordinate technical and financial action, it would be desirable that the capital works programme be turned into an instrument of particular relevance for the best allocation of public funds obtained through the normal fiscal channels. A more efficient allocation of available public funds and the implementation of a works programme will help not only to give effect to an anti-cyclical policy, when employment in the private sector begins to fall, but also to build up the basic infrastructure and thereby put an end to bottlenecks in supplies hampering efforts to raise efficiency in the private sector.

The preparatory work which must be done before formulation of a national programme depends on co-ordinated action of the following state agencies:

(i) The National Development Council

This institution, which was created by Decree 7290 of 23 August 1961, comes directly under the President's Office. It is charged with the task of carrying out a systematic and constant analysis of social and economic trends in the country, and its other duties include: definition of the goals and aims of the national development process, formulation of short and long-term programmes, study and assessment of programmes of investment in basic sectors. It initiates and co-ordinates the preparation of specific projects by other responsible organs for dovetailing into the national programme and speeding up negotiations for foreign financial assistance.

(ii) Inter-ministerial Council on Labour, Economics and Services

The purpose of this organ is to harmonize top-level government policy decisions in economic and labour matters and the public services and speed up the application of measures adopted by the ministries in question. The council comprises ministers and secretaries of state directly concerned with economic, financial and labour matters, public works and infrastructure services.

(iii) Central Bank of the Argentine Republic

This is the country's leading institution in the fields of finance and credit.

(iv) Federal Investments Council

Its aim is to help promote investment in accord with the economic possibilities inherent in each region of the country.

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